



# TIPTON TIMES

330

December 2025

and January 2026

Tipton Times was started in 1969 and is produced and distributed to local households every two months by volunteers. Costs are met from voluntary contributions. TT advertising is free and limited to local non-profit organisations and charities, with a once per year opportunity for businesses in our delivery area.



**HAPPY DAYS!**  
**CHILDREN IN NEED**  
**WALK AND TEA**

**CAROL SINGING**  
**FROM SUNDIAL**  
**CORNER TO THE PUB**

**CHRISTMAS TREE**  
**COMING TO**  
**TO THE**  
**VILLAGE GREEN**

**FUN AND GAMES**  
**BEETLE DRIVE**  
**AND SUNDAY**  
**QUIZZES**

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Children in Need walk

*organised by Jo Earlam*

We welcome letters and contributions but reserve the right to edit and amend such offerings. Views expressed within each article are the author's own.

## Editorial

Welcome to the December/January edition of Tipton Times. We hope you find much to enjoy within the following pages as well as information about upcoming events. We also keep an online diary of forthcoming events on the Tipton Times website: <https://www.tiptontimes.org.uk/events-calendar/> which is an up-to-date source of what's happening in the village.

If you're not familiar with the website, do feel free to have a browse. Apart from the calendar we also have a page of online links to village and other organisations: <https://www.tiptontimes.org.uk/links/>. Do check this and let us know if your contact information is up to date or if you would like your details listed here (if you're part of a village group which is not yet included). The Tipton St John online hub is also a great way of staying in touch with village events, with useful links to the Community Hall and Playing Field: <https://tiptonstjohn.co.uk/>

As well as the current edition, you will also find previous copies of Tipton Times going back to October/November 2022: <https://www.tiptontimes.org.uk/newsletter-archive/>. You will also notice that the photographs in our online edition are of much higher quality. The photographs of the latest TIPPS production on pages 4 and 5 are an excellent example.

Many thanks to you all for reading and supporting your village magazine. We wish you a very joyful Christmas and Happy New Year!

### The Editors

We were so sad to hear that Jerry Dewhurst passed away last weekend. He will be much missed by the village community and we send our deepest sympathy to Angie and his sons and grandchildren.

We have been informed that Gareth Jones, son of Dave Jones and brother of Davey Jones, recently passed away. Again, our condolences to his family and all those in the village who remember him.

It is with sadness that we also let you know that Barry Croud has passed away, on 24th November, peacefully at home with all his family present. He will be greatly missed.



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## ***The Full Treatment*** directed by Ann and Terry Knight

As the curtain opened, the audience broke into a spontaneous round of applause at the excellent set, which was absolutely spot on for the 70's period including paper globe lampshades. From the outset we were thoroughly entertained as the fast moving action unfolded.

The play revolved around centenarian couple Henry and Sarah who were about to celebrate their 80<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They were played by Paul Kinson and Janet Farrow, who were both at the top of their game. Sarah's look of wonder as she was led into the penthouse suite was a sight to behold and when Henry fell to his knees you really did wonder if he would ever get up again!



Said hotel suite had been arranged by the provincial newspaper that was planning a feature on the couple. In charge of the article was hapless journalist George Maxwell, very well played by a newcomer to TIPPS, Steven Pryer. It soon became obvious George had bitten off more than he could chew, as he became more and more stressed, not only with the fact he hardly knew the couple as he claimed but also that he had given his new bride, Brenda, the impression that the hotel suite was just for them. She became more and more irate as the suite was gradually filled with no less than seven people.

Brenda, played by Mo Mylne, proved not to be the wife George thought she would be, but photographer Joan, played by Claire Martin, had been carrying a torch for George for years and engineered her downfall. I particularly enjoyed the scene between the two of them where Joan brings Brenda down and sends her on her way.





The play was all brought together by an excellent supporting cast. Sue Hulley played a very efficient secretary, Ken Mylne a duplicitous public relations officer, Helen Mylne a gullible hotel maid, Brian Rice an irritable editor, Kyle Hayes a long-suffering nurse and Michael Gasgoine Pees the man from the BBC.

The costumes for this production were fantastic, just right for the period and really colourful. Scene changes were all smooth and special effects all on cue. Well done to everyone involved on stage, and behind the scenes - it couldn't be done without you.

If this proves to be the directorial swansong that Ann and Terry Knight say it is, they are certainly going out on a high!

*photos courtesy of Shân Merritt*



I'm sure fellow contributors to the TT and similar publications must think, as I do, what do I write about this time. I could just make up something, if I had any imagination, but that might come back to bite me, so maybe I'll just continue with the facts!

As many of you will know, we have just completed a successful run of a play, *The Full Treatment* by Peter Brett. And didn't they do well, I'm very proud of them all. I enjoyed the production all the more because I hadn't seen any rehearsals beforehand.

It was really good to have a new member in the cast, Steven Pryer, who showed us how a lead role should be played. We very much welcome him and his wife Lea. It was also great to have Paul Kinson back on stage, along with Helen Mylne for the first time since she was a junior member.

We are very excited to tell you that Natalie Anning and Claire Devin have been very busy writing a script for J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* (by arrangement with Great Ormond Street Hospital charity and Concord Theatricals Ltd.), for our usual timeslot of February half term

This is not in the form of pantomime but a magical play with many special effects and will be showcasing our very talented Junior section. All the details will be in the February edition of the TT.

TIPPS is always on the lookout for new members in any capacity, acting is only one of the many things you can do if you join us. You can write scripts, produce, direct, build/paint sets, make props, etc. etc. and we are still looking for someone to join the costume department.

**Yvonne Kellett**  
**07875 867222**  
**ykellet@gmail.com**



## Nature Notes

As autumn slips and slides its way towards winter, which will be something to do with the incessant rain that continues to hydrate the once baked mud, it doesn't seem to be getting markedly cold. Well, not for me anyway! It's nearly the middle of November and I'm still in my T-shirt and shorts. (Yes, I'm weird, come the cries from all about!) Bring on some of the cold, crisp conditions that will allow me to bring my freshly laundered winter shorts out of the wardrobe!

I received a digital missive from one of our nature spotters a little while ago on the subject of

butterflies. I'm sure we have all found a butterfly in a corner of our house at some point. Very often they will go undiscovered during the darker months. Among the butterflies, it is only the Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock that regularly overwinter inside houses. They come in during late summer/early autumn when it is still warm outside and our houses appear to provide suitably cool, sheltered dry conditions. However,

come Christmas, when the central heating is cranked up, such butterflies may be awoken prematurely by high indoor temperatures. This presents a major

problem for the butterfly as the outside weather conditions may be very hostile and there is little nectar available in gardens. So, what do you do if you are concerned about this? If you would rather not have them flying about in the house, or you don't think it's a suitable place for them, carefully catch the butterfly and place it in a cardboard box, then leave it somewhere cool for a half an hour or so, giving it the chance to settle down. Then you can relocate it somewhere cooler - the inside of a shed, garage or outhouse is perfect. Just make sure the butterfly has an escape route for when spring arrives. If you have nowhere suitable for a butterfly to spend the rest of the winter, try to keep it in a relatively cool spot until the weather improves. Release it on a warm and dry day and it can fly away and find another suitable roosting place.



*Peacock butterfly*



As regards hibernation among our animal friends only dormice, hedgehogs and bats truly hibernate. For other creatures, there are a number of tactics to get through this lean period. For example, one is to migrate to a warmer location; another is to stick it out on stored food reserves and what is still available. The population of smaller mammals, such as rabbit, as shrews, mice and voles, drops dramatically during winter as food availability becomes the restricting factor to survival. However, both badgers and foxes can be seen at any time.

In Britain, the royal family - especially Queen Charlotte, wife of George III - helped to popularise the Germanic tradition of bringing an evergreen tree indoors to decorate at Christmas. It's less well known that the custom originally involved a yew tree, or just a solitary branch. Yew was used both in the British Isles, where it is one of only three native conifers, and in Germany, home to a wider range of species.

Yews in fact have a rich and ancient relationship with the peoples of these islands, long pre-dating the Christmas festival.

In pre-Christian times, they were associated with death rituals and important spiritual sites. So, while many of the oldest yews survive in churchyards, these wonderful gnarly specimens were already old when the churches' foundations were laid. The trees are male or female; in winter, the latter bear red berries. Curiously, a tree might change sex, for reasons that remain unclear. Stranger still, often only one or two branches make the switch.

(cont ...)

In the winter, most plants are dormant, except in sheltered spots where they might still persevere. Some will simply be carrying seeds or fruit which will serve as food to many creatures. In December Ivy berries start to appear. They are green at first and gradually turn black when ripe. By February these will be the last natural fruits left in the hedgerow for birds to eat. Holly has had its red berries now since the start of autumn. Although they are seen as one of the iconic decorations of Christmas, there is also a great amount of folklore and superstition surrounding holly trees. It was believed that holly planted around a house could protect the property against lightning strikes, sickness and witchcraft! Birds such as redwings and thrushes will probably have a different use for them, though! Mistletoe grows in fruit trees, such as apple, as well as in lime trees. Now that the leaves are fallen, the mistletoe is especially noticeable. This semi-parasitic plant is best seen in winter. The plant is associated with the mistle thrush which is supposed to love the sticky white berries. The bird spreads the plant from tree to tree by wiping the excess seeds and berries from its beak onto a twig of another tree.



So, finally, may I wish you a Merry Christmas, Solstice Blessings and a very Happy New Year!

til next year!

**Geoff Pinn** [gjpinn@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:gjpinn@tiscali.co.uk)

## **Children-in-Need Ramble 2025**

We had perfect walking weather for this year's ramble through our lovely local countryside.

Led by Jo we made our way through the village, along Harpford Lane to the old railway line and along that to Harpford where some of us - me included - chickened out and were transported back to the hall. The keener walkers and their dogs went on up through the woods and later reported they had had a lovely time.



We all enjoyed the tea and cake laid on for us by Gill, Barbara and Terry and were so pleased to be joined by a good number of non-walkers who had come along to support.

With walk sponsorship, tea donations and further donations from those unable to come to either, we raised £400. Thank you all so much for your support - walking, coming to tea, donating, making cakes and generally helping for a good cause.

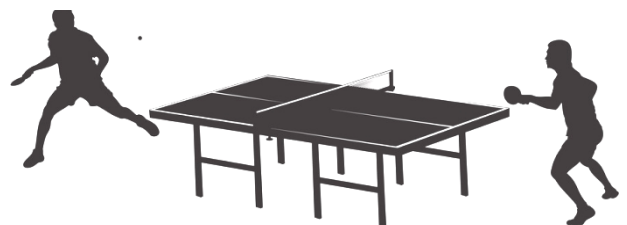
**Ann Knight**

## **Table Tennis in Tipton Community Hall**

Our next dates at 7.30pm are:

**December 8th**

**January 12th and 26th**



## Tipton St John Playing Field

Hello Tipton

We held our annual AGM at the beginning of November: thank you to all those who came along.

We have a new vice chairman Toby Scrimshaw. I'm really looking forward to working alongside him and would like to extend my gratitude to Clinton Johnston who held the position for the last two years.

We are currently busy making plans for the coming year with lots of community events. Dates will be published once confirmed.

By the time of publication we will already have held our Q&A session at the village hall. It's a valuable way of catching up with you and getting your thoughts and ideas for the next twelve months. It's great news that we have been granted planning permission to build a new community pavilion. Hopefully you can all agree exciting times ahead.

You may have noticed two new notices in the playing fields. They are a gentle reminder to pick up after your dog as we have had a few issues with dog mess being left.

The Committee and I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas. As always keep using and enjoying this beautiful asset. To share any concerns or ideas please email me.

**Mark Rigden, PFA Chairman ([rigden58@btinternet.com](mailto:rigden58@btinternet.com))**



### Carer Support Group

Thanks to those who came along to the two carer support group get togethers. We had some good informal chats, talking about carer experience, lots of laughter too, along with cake, in November a yummy vegan Victoria sandwich kindly made by our neighbour Simon.

Thanks too for the interest and support from those unable to make it along. Apologies to anyone who called in for the November date as I'd shared in the last edition of Tipton Times - after going to print I realised I'd double booked and had to bring it forward by a day.

I'll keep the same drop in at our home format for December and January. Will think about adding further options, like a short walk, as we head towards spring.

For **December** it will be **Saturday 13th 10.30am to 12.30pm**. For **January**, an afternoon, **Friday 9th**, from **2.30pm to 4.30pm**. We live at Brambledown, Green Lane, EX10 0AH. Do email if you want to ask anything or confirm details [jo.earlam@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jo.earlam@hotmail.co.uk). I'll post it on the Tipton community Facebook page. Look forward to welcoming along anyone who's interested. Thank you.

**Jo Earlam**

### West Hill Men's Supper Club

We gather monthly, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, for a couple of drinks followed by a two course meal and a talk by an invited speaker. The next meetings will be on:

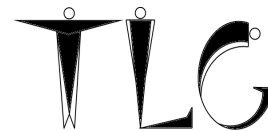
|                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>8<sup>th</sup> December:</b> | Mission Aviation Fellowship.   |
| <b>12<sup>th</sup> January:</b> | Tudor Times in the Otter Vale. |
| <b>9<sup>th</sup> February:</b> | The West Country Rivers Trust. |

Our venue is the Narthex annex to St Michael's Church in West Hill starting at 6.45pm. We charge £25 (cash) which includes drinks and the meal.

Visitors or prospective members are welcome. If you are interested in coming for a taster evening or finding out more about us, please contact **John Rowland** at [j.v.rowland@btinternet.com](mailto:j.v.rowland@btinternet.com) or 01404 813027.



## Tipton Ladies - The development of the UK Seaside resort



As the dark and wet of autumn began to close in, we had our summer extended by a delightful talk, by Stewart Raine, on the development of the UK seaside resort. With lots of nostalgic and amusing photos (we did grin at the historic swimwear), images and recordings we were led through the evolution from health bathing for the few rich and privileged, to summer escape to temporary summer residence, to improved transport driven escape for everyone to hotels and B&Bs (where you originally had to bring your own food for the landlady to cook!) and, more recently, to the demise of the large hotels and development of self-catering, holiday camps and caravan parks.

The Bank Holiday act of 1871 declared four days of public holiday for everyone and in 1938 the Holiday Pay Act made it a legal obligation for at least one week of paid holiday a year for all workers - which opened up the opportunity for workers to enjoy time at the seaside.

With illustrations from many of the famous UK resorts we saw what you would expect to wear, how you would have been entertained and how you would have travelled to the seaside throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century (I'd never thought of travellers arriving by paddle steamer at all those famous seaside piers before the railways opened up). With so many interesting facts and enchanting images this short summary can't capture how interesting this talk was, and we enjoyed a natter over coffee and biscuits sharing our own seaside memories ... a lovely evening.

**Mo Mylne**

Many members joined us on Monday 17th November for our evening with Lady Catherine and we began with mulled wine, tea, coffee and mince pies which put us in the festive spirit and ready for a Tudor Christmas with Rosemary Griggs and her alter ego Lady Catherine.

The Lady Catherine arrived to a Tudor Christmas song, sung beautifully by her 'man servant' (Rosemary's husband). She was wearing an exquisite red Tudor gown, French style hood and coif embroidered with the black line embroidery so fashionable at that time.

The Lady Catherine Champernowne lived in Devon all her life but, through her family, knew of the Christmas traditions of the Royal Court and this was mirrored, to some extent, at her various homes in Devon and she brought this period of history to life for us, introducing us to the foods, traditions and etiquette.



During Advent there was fasting, in as much as no dairy, sugar or meat was consumed. This made Christmas all the more exciting as everyone would look forward to the feasts that were to come. On Christmas Eve holly, ivy, mistletoe and other greenery was brought into the home and a large log, lit using the remaining Yule log from the previous year. Christmas Day would finally arrive and the feasting would begin, usually with the boars head which would have been decorated with garlands and herbs, followed by many different meats and poultry, sometimes including elaborate displays of peacocks, which would be a show of wealth.

Tudor etiquette was also explained such as the relevance of where you sat in relation to, not just the top table, but also the salt, a very expensive commodity at that time.

Rosemary explained how many of our 'traditional' Christmas treats have changed over the years to what we enjoy today. Even food in the more humble households has filtered through, such as the Pottage, a staple food, being wrapped in a cloth which has evolved into a pudding though the Christmas Pudding we have today originated from finer foods from wealthier households.

Rosemary has published three books and written many articles on various subjects and these can be found on her website, [rosemarygriggs.co.uk](http://rosemarygriggs.co.uk).

In December we will be enjoying Christmas lunch at the Victoria Hotel, Sidmouth and the winning bid for the picture kindly donated by Linda Kettle will be announced. On **January 19th**, we have another visit from Jude Corram. Magic with a comedic twist.

We would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and we hope that 2026 is kind to you. Remember, ladies, that if you wish to join us on the third Monday of each month at 7pm at Tipton Community Hall there will be a warm welcome awaiting you.

**Stephanie Kinson**

## Len Baker

Len was born at 6 Coombe Vale, Tipton St John on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1941. He grew up there with his older brother Ken and attended Tipton St John school. When he left school he worked as a painter and decorator, working for Gosling Builders and then Luxtons, before giving up work to care for his father who had dementia. When his dad moved into Angela Court (Sundial House) Len became their maintenance worker so that he could be close to him. Whilst working there he met Marion, who worked there as a care assistant in 1998; she said he was quite the joker and made everyone laugh. They married in 2000 and Len became stepdad to Sue, Nicky, Simon and Melizza. He also became a grandad and great grandad. In 2001 they moved from Coombe Vale to Venn Ottery, where he renovated the house and landscaped the garden himself. Len loved to work in his beautiful garden and he was also a great cook, often baking cakes for family, friends and local events. He was very community spirited and would often be seen clearing the flood puddles so that the children could walk to school.

Len was a true local boy and if ever we had a question about Tipton history he could often fill us in with his local knowledge of the village. I remember him telling me how he would drink from the village water pump on his way home from school and scrump apples with his friends from the orchards at Mallocks. He told me that his family took in evacuees during the war and how they had remained friends. He could name the old buildings and families of the village and recall past events with great memory.

Len passed away on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September at home with his family. He will be greatly missed and we send our condolences to Marion and all of his family.

**Judith Taylor**



## Wendy Pounce



Wendy was born in Kent, where she grew up to become a teacher. Some years after marrying David, they moved to their old farmhouse in Metcombe on David's retirement.

Wendy's passion was gardening and at Beatlands they created substantial flower beds and fruit and vegetable gardens, with several fruit trees and greenhouses, one housing a prolific grape vine. From scratch, Wendy and David dug out a beautiful lake landscaped with damp-loving

plants and attracting local wildlife. Wendy especially loved to make friends with any resident ducks.

Wendy and David travelled extensively, and, in her younger days, Wendy played tennis and badminton and entered flower arranging competitions. Wendy was one of the founding members of the village quizzes, which she continued to enjoy with her Amnesiacs team through to this spring. She also enjoyed her weekly gathering with friends to tackle the Times crossword, accompanied by a 'g and t'. She used her gardening expertise not only in her TT articles but also in her planting designs for the bridge and hanging baskets and flower beds on the green.



*Wendy Joan Pounce*

27<sup>th</sup> May, 1931 - 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

**Anne Sadler and Lizzie Steele**

## Thought for the Times

The schedule for editing, producing and printing Tipton Times means that I am writing this before the budget on 26th November. I assume that you are reading it after that date. As always happens in the run-up to the budget, the news has been full of speculation by commentators and pundits, and lots of question-dodging by government ministers.

In a news bulletin on the radio or television, a piece about tax may sit side by side with something that is actually far more momentous and important. And yet, for us as individuals, the taxation story is the one that affects us personally and probably quite soon. We have to deal with the things that impact our lives now; we may not have the headspace or bandwidth to worry about something in another part of the world or that lies in the more distant future.

During this month of December, I hope that you will hear again the familiar Nativity story. The Christmas story is about one of the most important and momentous events in all human history, but it begins with news about a tax rise. At least, news of a census, decreed by the Roman Emperor, a first step towards a poll tax. For the people living in Galilee and Judea, far, far from Rome, the immediate concern was registering their names. And for those who had moved away from home, it meant the inconvenience of a journey.

Very understandably, these people would have been caught up in the immediate. As well as dealing with the census, many were probably anxious about how they would pay the tax demand that would inevitably follow.

However, there was more than one item of news at that time. Two items of news sat side by side and came from different news outlets.

The first came from Rome. The state broadcaster delivered the news of the census and the requirement to register in your home town. The other news broadcaster was not from Rome, was not even from earth. This news was delivered by a messenger from heaven. The word 'angel' means 'messenger'. This particular angel-messenger brought good news.

Would anyone pay attention? In the midst of all the hubbub of census registration, there was news about an event that was taking place quietly, unnoticed by most people, that would, ultimately, prove to be far more significant - a baby was being born. Obviously, for the parents, Mary and Joseph, the birth of their baby boy was very immediate and life-changing, but for most people in Bethlehem it did not affect them at all, and they probably did not notice.

There were a few shepherds, though, who did listen. They heard this other item of news. A very special baby boy had been born. And although it would not change their day to day lives immediately, they chose to take this news seriously.



There are many immediate things that impact us right now, but I hope that we can hear the ultimately more important news spoken by God's messenger:

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

The shepherds responded to that item of news. They found the baby and were blessed by that meeting at the manger. I hope and pray that you also find a moment to respond to that good news, and that like the shepherds of Bethlehem you and yours have a very blessed and joyful Christmas,

**Mark**



Rev Mark Ward 01404 814282

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[www.facebook.com/revmarkward](https://www.facebook.com/revmarkward)

## Friends of St John and St Gregory Club

1st (40) Karen Leach £30

2nd (72) Shirley Hamilton £20

3rd (86) Lionel Dodd £15

## Church News

You may have seen in the news that Dame Sarah Mullally is to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Dame Sarah was the Bishop of Crediton from 2015 - 2018 and during her time in Devon she led a confirmation service here in Tipton Church. We welcome her appointment and hold her in prayer as she prepares to take on this role at a very challenging time for the Church of England.

### Harvest Goods for St Petrock's

Our harvest services at Venn Ottery Church, Tipton Church and Café Church were much enjoyed by all, and they included very generous donations of items for St Petrock's, the homeless centre in Exeter. The primary school also brought gifts for them at their harvest assembly and we were also passed harvest donations from the churches at Colaton Raleigh, Harpford and Newton Poppleford as well as some from the wider community here in Tipton and Venn Ottery. Thank you to everyone who gave - it was our best year since the pandemic resulting in **two** full car loads! Peter Stephenson, the Chief Executive of St Petrock's, has written to me to pass on their very grateful thanks. One thing worth sharing is that over the past year their kitchen has prepared over 13,000 meals so be assured your contributions will be put to very good use feeding those in need.

### Remembering

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November many of us gathered in Tipton Church to remember and give thanks for loved ones who are no longer with us as we celebrated All Souls. Then on 9<sup>th</sup> November we gathered in silence by the war grave in the churchyard for the two minutes' silence for Remembrance Sunday. These were both very poignant services offering a chance to reflect on those who have gone before us, giving thanks for them and commemorating the sacrifice of those lost in the two world wars.

### Café Church

Café Church over the past two months has encouraged us to persevere in prayer and also to think about our preparation for Christmas through the season of Advent when we reflect on the need to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Our next meeting is on **21<sup>st</sup> December** so will be very much focussed on celebrating the Christmas story as we look at it from Joseph's perspective - we may well have some extra special treats alongside our croissants and pains au chocolat! Doors open as usual at 10.30am with a time of worship starting around 11am. In January we meet on the 18<sup>th</sup> and will be looking at the baptism of Jesus. Everyone is welcome to join us in the Community Hall - as well as food and coffee there will be activities for every age.

### Homegroup and Prayer Meeting

Our weekly Thursday-night homegroup started its Advent Course a little early this year due to Christmas falling on a Thursday and our Advent Prayer meeting in church is on 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm - do join us for an hour of prayerful reflection. Our homegroup studies will continue at 7.30pm on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> my house, St Mary's, Hayne Close, as we think about how we can 'Make Room for Christ' amidst all the busyness that surrounds us at this time of year - there's no requirement to attend every meeting, just come as and when you are able. In January we will restart on the 8<sup>th</sup> as we think about some of the big issues affecting our world and how we respond to them as Christians. Topics will include war, suffering and sex. You don't need to come to our church to join us, just come with an eagerness to want to get to know God and his word better - bring a Bible if you have one, and, if not, we'll make sure you get one.

### Christmas Coffee Morning

Don't miss the Christmas coffee morning on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December** from **10am** in the Community Hall. In addition to the usual cake and book stalls, there will be craft and gift items available for purchase.

### Christmas Services and Patronal Festival

Near the back of Tipton Times you will always find the Church Calendar, but if there isn't a service here at a time that suits you then check on our Mission Community website for services in the neighbouring parishes and online ([ottervalechurches.org/](http://ottervalechurches.org/)). So if you'd like to attend a late-night communion on Christmas Eve you can choose between Newton Poppleford at 11pm with our vicar, Mark, and Ottery St Mary at 11.30pm. And celebrations continue at 9.30am on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December when we mark the feast of St John the Evangelist.

### Start Giving at Christmas!

Our churches are moving into the 21st century. As from December we will be able to take debit/credit card donations at all our services, including Café Church. And do please Gift Aid donations if you can.

If you have any questions about what's happening in your church do please call or email me anytime, but for now may I, on behalf of Tipton & Venn Ottery churches, wish you and your loved ones a truly wonderful Christmas - may you know the love, joy and peace that Jesus came into the world to bring to all.

Our annual awards evening and dinner was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> November at the Golden Lion – for the first time in anyone’s memory. It was great to hold the evening in the village, especially as Annie and her team have been so supportive of the cricket club throughout the summer, welcoming us to the pub after our Sunday matches. Many thanks, Annie, for hosting us and providing a great dinner.



We had a larger attendance than in recent years: 30 players, supporters and friends turned out to see the annual presentation of trophies, which reflected a range of high achievement across the club’s membership,

The main recipients were:

Batting: John Buckland

Bowling: Phil Wright

Fielding: Luke Phillips

Most Improved Player: Patrick Smith

Champagne Moment: David Birch

Kevin Jones Trophy: Bruce Marshall



The Kevin Jones trophy is awarded to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the club either on or off the field. In the face of continuing issues with mobility, our president Bruce Marshall has continued to make every effort to come and support us and richly deserves this recognition for his years of outstanding service to the club. Bruce presented his President’s Award to Jem Gillham, in recognition of his determination to make ancient machinery work against all odds and endless hours spent preparing wickets.

Presentation cricket balls in recognition of 5 wickets taken in an innings were given to Phil Wright, Matt Davies and David Birch. A record number of presentation bats, 12 in all, were given to players who scored centuries and half centuries in the course of the season: John Buckland, Dave Thayre, George Prismall, Brendan Coles, Nalin Chouhan, Tom Jeacock, Matt Brewster, Dave Alford, Joe Birch, Matt Davies, Harry Everett and Anthony Femia.



In the last issue I referred to the sad loss of Tipton legend Brian Blackbeard. I’m delighted to include this poem which was read at his funeral. Plans are in hand to place a bench in Brian’s memory on the playing field, ideally at the spot where he used to come and watch us play (and offer his thoughts on the quality of the cricket on display!).

### ***In Memory of Brian***

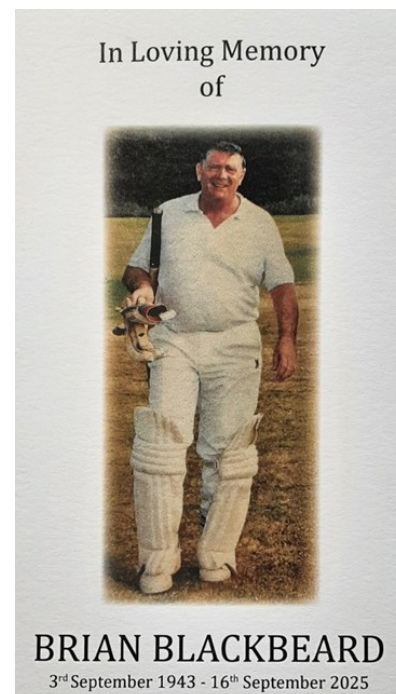
*Brian, husband, father, grandad, friend,  
Whose story we recall again,  
On fields of football, cricket too,  
In youth he played with spirit true.*

*By seaside sands, a kiosk small,  
With drinks and toys, he served them all.  
Then printing pressed beneath his hand,  
A craft he carried through the land.*

*A father proud of Mark and Chris,  
Grandad to Niall and Sean with bliss,  
With Gay, his love, who’s long at rest,  
Together they had a shared life best.*

*His humour sharp, his wallet tight,  
A man of order, firm but right.  
Yet softer years brought gentler ways,  
And warmer smiles in later days.*

*So let us keep his memory near,  
In stories told, in laughter clear.  
For though his earthly time is done,  
His spirit shines in everyone.*



**David Birch, Chair (07929 822940)**

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How good it was to see many new faces at the Tony Harris evening earlier in the month and what a fantastic show it was. His impersonations of Maggie Thatcher were so good and the information he had at his fingertips seemed endless. The typical blue suit and white blouse was her to a T. The trustees had been in earlier and the decorated hall was in keeping - red, white and blue but mostly blue ... of course!

The Codfather provided the fish and chips up to the usual good standard and the trustees in the kitchen and those in the hall have now done this so often that everyone was served in no time at all. Most had brought their own liquid refreshment and the second half was devoted to a relaxed question and answer session.

The Main Hall and the Small Hall are booked every morning and nearly every afternoon of the week particularly during school time and very soon it will be busy in the evenings too as TIPPS start rehearsing for the February half term show. Some of the new faces mentioned above commented on how lovely the hall was and how they had no idea it was there! I urge you to tell all your friends and family about it and the wonderful facilities we have. It has endless possibilities. I know it is fully booked over Christmas Day and Boxing Day too and there are even some 2026 bookings set up.

Our main winter community entertainment continues with the quiz evenings. The next on is on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December**, then **18<sup>th</sup> January 2026**, **22<sup>nd</sup> February**, **22<sup>nd</sup> March**, **26<sup>th</sup> April** (contact Brian Rice for details [rice196@btinternet.com](mailto:rice196@btinternet.com)) In between those dates we have other things planned. Watch this space.

**Kyle Hayes**

## Ottery Choral Society

## Carols and Fireworks (sort of)

We are a non-auditioning community choir who sing classical choral music. On Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>, in the Ottery Parish Church, we will be performing our Christmas concert.

Now, Ottery needs very little excuse to celebrate by setting fire to something, so our orchestra will be performing one of the nation's firm favourites, *Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks*. George Frideric Handel was commissioned to write the music in 1748 by King George II. That October, the Austrian War of Succession had ended by the signing of a peace treaty in the city of Aix-la-Chapelle. This was a war that started as a Habsburg family quarrel over whether a woman could inherit the throne and ended up as a pan-European conflict spreading all the way from Spain to Sweden to Russia and lasting nearly eight years.

The music was to accompany a fireworks display in London's Green Park in April 1749 to celebrate the peace. It was enormously popular at the time: in the week before the full performance, an open dress rehearsal drew a crowd of more than twelve thousand people and gridlocked London for three hours. The choir will be singing some beautiful carols, including the catchy *Torches* by Joubert and the gentle and serene *Shepherd's Farewell* by Berlioz, and of course there will be ample opportunity for our audience to fill the church with the sounds of Christmas. We will want Ottery to be left in no doubt about how many gold rings there were, so come in good voice.

The centrepiece of the concert will be Schubert's gorgeous *Mass in E-flat*. It was one of the last major pieces of music he completed before he died at the age of thirty-one in November 1828. Schubert had a tricky relationship with the established church in Vienna, which often was used as an arm of the government to clamp down on freedom of expression. He freely adapted, re-ordered, and omitted passages of the Latin Mass text to suit his music. The result was music that was so good, the usually strict church often overlooked these liberties. This Mass is music that expresses a range of emotions, from bleak uncertainty to joyful hope, to a final peaceful resolution.

Our retiring collection will be in aid of Hospiscare.

Tickets are available now from the Curious Otter bookshop, and online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ottery-st-mary-choral-society>



**Peter Hudson**

## VOSRA update

## Christmas Carol Service

We are really pleased to confirm that a Carol service will be held in St Gregory's on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30**, led by Caroline Poultney. VOSRA will be providing accompanying seasonal refreshments after the service.

We look forward to starting off all our seasonal celebrations as so many others will have done over decades before us, in our beautiful church. As with previous years, St Gregory's Christmas decorations always get us in the festive spirit and remind us about the meaning of this wonderful time of year.

We hope to see you there on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Christmas - a time for tradition

Every time I walk into St Gregory's, I cannot help but think about the thousands of other feet that have passed over the threshold, like me, upholding our local Christmas traditions as we have done and continue to do so in our beautiful corner of Devon.

But looking wider afield, you begin to realise what a varied race we are. Did you know that:

In South Africa people enjoy barbecues and fried caterpillars due to the warm weather!

In Finland, a breakfast tradition involves rice porridge with cinnamon, where finding a hidden almond brings good luck.

In Germany, a pickle-shaped ornament is hidden on the Christmas tree for children to find on Christmas Day.

And in the Netherlands, children place their shoes by the fireplace on Christmas Eve, hoping to find gifts or treats inside.

Talking of gifts, in Iceland, there are 13 "Yule Lads" who visit children in the 13 nights before Christmas, leaving gifts in their shoes.

In Venezuela, many people roller skate to church services on Christmas morning. Now that's a tradition worth starting in Venn Ottery!!

I wonder if people abroad read about our festive traditions and smile?

Wherever you will be celebrating this Christmas, and whatever traditions you will be looking forward to, may they bring a smile and many happy memories! Happy Christmas, one and all.

**Andy Finch**

## Chris Dunn

Dear Tipton residents,

It is with great sadness that I must inform you of the death of Chris Dunn who, with her husband, Desmond, lived for many years in your village.

She was a truly lovely person who will be greatly missed by friends and family alike.

Her recent goal was to reach her 99th birthday which she did on Friday 3rd October. She died peacefully, in her armchair four days later!

Her memorial will be held sometime later this year or early next and we will be sure to inform you should anyone wish to join us in celebrating her long life.

The Old Smithy currently remains unoccupied and is for sale, any enquiries should be made to Redferns in Sidmouth!

Our very best wishes to you all,

Graham (son) and Janet (daughter)



## Tipton St John Football Club

We're now entering the wet season when games have started to be postponed because of waterlogged pitches so we've not played for a few weeks but we've steadied the ship after a shaky start with two wins on the trot at the time of writing. The club continues to go from strength to strength off the pitch as well. We've received our latest grant money instalment for pitch renovation and maintenance from the Football Foundation. This money is essential to ensure the pitch is at its best and will stand up to the wet winter games. Fertiliser and aeration will allow the pitch to breathe and also help with drainage over the coming months.



As the pitch now starts to get wet as well as frosty, I'd plead with people to walk around the roped off area please. When the ground is frosty, walking on the frosty grass actually kills it and you'll be able to see this already on the pitch with black footprints across it. This is now dead grass which will take months to grow back. We put a lot of time in making the pitch look as best we can and people walking over it on a frosty morning doesn't help, it only hinders our work. Thankfully it's only a minority and I thank those that I speak to who walk around the pitch and understand what we're doing and praise me on how good it looks.

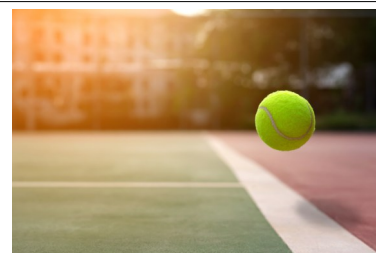
I'm also disappointed to report that we've had another petty act of vandalism where someone has deliberately cut the rope around the pitch. It's such a shame that someone feels the need to do this. The rope is paid for out of the club's own funds and this latest cut just adds to the previous cuts this season. I'm sure someone knows who the culprit is and any information regarding this would be greatly received so I could understand the reason behind it all.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Up the Johns !!

**Kevin Sexton**

Not the best start for the club this winter season as all the other teams seem to have got stronger and up to the end of October both the Mixed team and the Men's team had lost all their matches.

However, we have welcomed a lot of new members who are good players and this will certainly help in the leagues next year. We are starting to incorporate our new players into the teams and we are sure they will soon start to help the club recover from the poor start. In November the Mixed team has won their first match and the Men's team has won one and drawn two.



Club night on a Wednesday 6pm til' late has been extremely well attended and we always welcome new players or anyone that wants to come and try us out. There is always room for more!

**Tuesday Ladies Tennis** will be **starting at 9.30am** in future - all welcome to come along to enjoy some social tennis with our friendly group of ladies.

We look forward to seeing you all there soon.

**Pete Clarke**

## You're invited to celebrate the **JOY** of Christmas with us

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm Carol Service at Venn Ottery Church

21<sup>st</sup> December at 10.30am Café Church in the Community Hall

21<sup>st</sup> December at 6.30pm Carol Service at Tipton Church

Christmas Eve at 4pm Crib Service at Tipton Church

Christmas Day Online Service at 9.30am – at [ottervalechurches.org/events/christmas-praise-6/](http://ottervalechurches.org/events/christmas-praise-6/)

Christmas Day Communion at 10am at Tipton Church





## Tipton Readers

The September read for Tipton Readers was **A Winter Grave by Peter May**.

It is the year 2051. Warnings of climate catastrophe have been ignored and vast areas of the planet are under water, or uninhabitably hot. A quarter of the world's population has been displaced by hunger and flooding, and immigration wars are breaking out around the globe as refugees pour into neighbouring countries.



By contrast, melting ice sheets have brought the Gulf Stream to a halt and northern latitudes, including Scotland, are being hit by snow and ice storms. It is against this backdrop that Addie, a young meteorologist checking a mountain top weather station, discovers the body of a man entombed in ice.

The dead man is investigative reporter, George Younger, missing for three months after vanishing during what he claimed was a hill-walking holiday. But Younger was no hill walker, and his discovery on a mountain top near the Highland village of Kinlochleven, is inexplicable.

Cameron Brodie, a veteran Glasgow detective, volunteers to be flown north to investigate Younger's death, but he has more than a murder enquiry on his agenda. He has just been given a devastating medical prognosis by his doctor and knows the time has come to face his estranged daughter who has made her home in the remote Highland village.

Arriving during an ice storm, Brodie and pathologist Dr Sita Roy find themselves the sole guests at the inappropriately named International Hotel, where Younger's body has been kept refrigerated in a cake cabinet. But evidence uncovered during his autopsy places the lives of both Brodie and Roy in extreme jeopardy.

As another storm closes off communications and the possibility of escape, Brodie must face up not only to the ghosts of his past, but to a killer determined to bury forever the chilling secret that George Younger's investigations had threatened to expose.

This book is a new venture for Peter May into a futuristic science-fiction style. He has written many books about the Hebrides and Western Isles, such as his Lewis trilogy, and although the group enjoyed the read, thought that it was not his best novel with one or two implausibilities within the plot. That said, the book moved on at a good pace with an interesting climax as to all reasons for George Younger's investigations.

With scores out of ten ranging from 5 to 7 the group gave it an average of 6.5.

**Chris Startup**

## The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

This was Tipton Readers October book discussed on 5th November. The book was chosen by Elizabeth Williams who has produced the review précised here. She was away for the meeting so I have added the score and some of the members comments.



When Nora Seed's neighbour tells her that he no longer needs her help, it is the straw that breaks the camel's back. She has had a dreadful day: her cat has been run over, she has lost her job and her only piano pupil is too busy to continue. She takes two anti-depressants and opens a bottle of wine. After a while she thinks she is not made for this life as every move she makes has been a mistake, every day a retreat from who she'd imagined she'd be: Swimmer, Musician, Philosopher, Spouse, Traveller, Glaciologist, Happy Loved. She decided it was a very good time to die. When the vapours cleared Nora found herself outside an unusual building with its clock registering 00:00:00- The Midnight Library.

Inside, the shelves seemed to go on forever towards a far horizon. All the books were green. The librarian, recognisable as Nora's old school librarian, explains that between life and death there is a library where every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived, to see how life could be different if you made other choices. If you are disappointed you will return to the library to try another life. There is also a 'Book of Regrets' and with each life experienced this book becomes lighter as she no longer feels regret at not taking that choice in her old life. Nora tries many lives (too many in the opinion of some of the members). When she returns to the library the final time it is collapsing as it is giving her the chance to return to her old life. She has decided that she wants to live and with a new, positive outlook starts to really live again.

Most people enjoyed the book though some thought the concept had been explored by others before. With scores between 6 and 8 the average worked out at just over 7 and several members thought they would like to try another by the same author.

**Ann Knight**



This is a slightly more unusual article from me this time around, as I wanted to mention a couple of new things that are happening locally. First of all, you may have seen posters around the village advertising the Full Moon Labyrinth Walk which has been taking place at Ariadne's Thread every month at 7pm. We have been using this time to gather at the labyrinth (in the north west corner of the playing field) to reflect and pause in today's frenetic world. The full moon is a time when energy is at its peak and as we walk we hope to slow down, listen and recognise what we have achieved and consider anything we may need to release. All are welcome, the

dates for the walks are on **3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2<sup>nd</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February**. Bring warm clothes, a torch and an open heart.

I would also like to mention my new venture Fern & ..., a brand which incorporates several different themes (Flow, Feather, Forage, Flame) each of which represents the nature of the items or workshops being crafted. This has evolved as I am currently doing a medicinal herbal course and as such, have started making hand-blended herbal teas, incense and botanical goods, all inspired by our local landscape. Each of my products celebrates the connection between people, plants and the natural elements, handcrafted in small batches from sustainably-sourced or foraged ingredients.



The first workshop is for Fern & Flow on **14<sup>th</sup> December**. Here we will spend a couple of hours exploring the tastes, textures and energies of herbs to create our own unique herbal tea blends to then take home. Next, on **18<sup>th</sup> January** there will be a 'New Year, New You' workshop, (Fern & Feather) where we will be looking at setting meaningful intentions for the year ahead. This will involve guided meditation, reflective journalling and hands-on creation of items to take away with essential oils. The workshops are at Harpford Village Hall, **11am to 1pm**. All equipment will be provided - places are limited so please contact me if you would like to join us. Investment is £15 per person. Thank you.

**Lisette Johnston** [l.f.johnston@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:l.f.johnston@hotmail.co.uk)

## A Winter of Wild Women Walking

Gender equality and issues facing women and girls has never been explored in relation to the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths and Otter Estuary, which together form the **Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve (NNR)**.



However, data from national surveys has found that:

- \* Men make more visits to green spaces than women.
- \* A lack of physical safety or fear of harm prevented 26% of women in the UK from enjoying nature, compared to just 9% of men.
- \* Some women find nature spaces inaccessible or less enjoyable because they are not safe from risk or physical harm, sexual harassment, hate crime or discrimination.
- \* There is an underrepresentation of women in physical activity particularly between 16-25 years, with 17% fewer women than men (at 16 years) and 26.3% fewer women than men (at 25 years).
- \* With women being less physically active than men, women are also at particularly high risk of poor mental wellbeing.

Based on this data, the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust (PHCT) is working with local women and girls to identify barriers to equitable outdoor access. Insights from the Pebblebeds Women's Forum have already inspired new, inclusive activities and immediate action.

Our next event is a special walk for women around the Otter Estuary Nature Reserve after dark!

### **Reclaim the Night! Friday 5th December Otter Estuary Nature Reserve, 6 - 7pm**

Join the *Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust* to positively celebrate women's right to walk freely, safely, and joyfully in nature at any hour. Our reserve should peacefully echo with curlews, and women should not face curfews. Together, we will light the way toward a countryside where everyone feels safe, day or night.

**Meet:** Bird Hide north of Lime Kiln car park, Budleigh Salterton

**Route:** 2.5 km on level paths, suitable for all ages and abilities.

**What to bring:** A lantern or torch and all your female friends.



*Whilst dogs are welcome if needed for support, the paths may be busy in places so please consider leaving dogs at home for their comfort and everyone's safety.*

**Kate Ponting**

## Garden News - a conundrum!



Hasn't it been a lovely Autumn so far? Yes we've had some rain but in between we've had the most beautiful warm sunny days where the autumnal colours have been enhanced by the sunshine. It's been great to get in the garden but then the conundrum arises. Do we energetically make the most of the mild weather and clip, tidy, sweep and clean everything in the garden to put it to bed for the winter or do we make the most of the last flowers and the change in foliage colour and not worry too much about closing everything down? For my part I'm certainly leaving things for the moment as Dolberries is still in flowering mode. The Dahlias are only just beginning to fade, the Salvias are still in their second flush of flower



as is the Abutilon Kentish Belle, the winter Jasmine is covered in its yellow flowers and the list goes on. I think you can probably guess which way my thoughts go and not just because it makes an excuse for not being the tidiest person but actually there are real benefits to leaving leaves and seeds and flower heads for the birds and insects to feed on and tuck into for shelter.

It doesn't mean I've been entirely inactive as the leaves need clearing from the grass otherwise the grass doesn't get enough sunlight for photosynthesis and it can promote a disease prone environment. The leaves are great to act as a mulch on the flowerbeds and I bag up a lot and wait for them to become a crumbly mixture to use in the garden at a later date. I find it therapeutic sweeping leaves and I'm ever hopeful that it is strengthening my core! I've also had a big delivery of 'black gold' compost - I've



mentioned this before and had trouble getting it but this year it arrived and I've managed to get ahead of myself by spreading it liberally as a mulch to improve the soil for next year particularly if there is going to be another drought season. It is enriching my sandy soil. I've also cleaned the greenhouse as that can harbour disease and affect next years crops and it also means it is ready for me to pop the tender plants away for some protection during the winter but, for now, they are staying put. Other than that, it will be gentle pottering during the winter spotting the wildlife I've hopefully given a home to and not worrying too much about a neat and tidy garden until the spring comes. Whatever your answer to the conundrum I hope your garden brings you joy over the start of the winter.



Next month I hope to be back to my articles about your gardens - a few people say they enjoy hearing about other people's ideas. I already have my first garden to visit which is very exciting and if anyone else would like their garden featured please do let me know.

Finally I should just mention Wendy Pounce who wrote this 'column' for the Tipton Times for many years until she collared me to have a go. She sadly died last month but she was such a knowledgeable gardener and not only did I read her words avidly but enjoyed many a chatty walk round her beautiful garden which she designed from scratch and loved so.

We will miss her.

**Alison Stevens**

## **Jess Bailey** **Independent Devon County Councillor, Otter Valley Ward**



### **Tipton St John Primary School**

I am working closely with DCC officers as well as the Department for Education trying to progress one of the sites in Tipton for a new school. Council officers are carrying out due diligence and have also commissioned external consultants to support this work. DCC needs to ensure that an appropriate level of due diligence is carried out in order for the DfE to be willing to take on the project and actually build the school. In essence, the DfE needs to be satisfied that the project is deliverable and that there are no 'show stoppers' which would prevent the build going ahead or that make it unaffordable. As you can imagine, this is quite a lengthy process but I am doing everything I can to ensure that the work is carried out as quickly as possible.

### **Fluxton Sewage Treatment Works**

I continue to receive complaints about excessive noise from the Sewage Treatment Works at Fluxton. My understanding is that East Devon District Council's investigations have identified that the noise does indeed emanate from the Sewage Treatment Works. I am pressing Council for the strongest possible action.

### **Local Government Re-organisation**

As I have mentioned in previous articles the Government is pursuing 'local government reorganisation' and is carving up all the existing 'two tier' authorities across the country and replacing them with single tier 'unitary' authorities instead. Local authorities are required to submit proposals to the Government for these new unitary councils before 28<sup>th</sup> November.

Devon County Council is submitting a proposal for a single tier authority which would cover the entire footprint of the current County Council area ie. all of Devon excluding Plymouth and Torbay. This would form a very large unitary authority serving 840,000 Devon residents. I have raised concerns that there would be a democratic deficit under this proposal with fewer councillors per elector than in any of the current unitary authorities.

Unfortunately there is no unanimity across Devon on what is the best solution. The various District Councils in Devon plus Exeter City Council are putting forward their own versions. Exeter City Council seems to want to expand massively and cherry pick parts of the surrounding districts. The District Councils by contrast are proposing that Devon should be carved up into two main unitary councils with Exeter and Northern Devon (East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge) forming one of these. Devon County Council's view, however, is that the new Exeter and Northern Devon Unitary would have insufficient money to deliver services.

Following the deadline for submission on 28<sup>th</sup> November, the Government will review the proposals and will carry out a public consultation on the various submissions early next year.

### **EDDC is launching a new grants scheme**

EDDC is launching a new grant scheme which will fund small community projects across East Devon, and community buildings in rural areas.

The fund was approved at EDDC's Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 29 October 2025, and the opening date for the first window of applications will be announced soon. £204,000 of funding has been allocated for grants, half for the upcoming 2025/2026 round, and the remainder for 2026/2027. £300 - £1,500 will be available for small community grants and £500 - £10,000 available for community buildings.

Please keep an eye on EDDC's website for the official launch.

**Cllr Jess Bailey**  
**01404 814056**  
[jessica.bailey@devon.gov.uk](mailto:jessica.bailey@devon.gov.uk)

## **Councillor Janice Aherne** **Ottery St Mary Town Councillor, Tipton St John Ward**



I attended TSJ Remembrance Service on Sunday 9th. It was a lovely service although sadly rather under-attended; it would be lovely if some of our local organisations were represented next year.

The main topic for all Councils at the moment is Local Government Reorganisation. Suggested plans from DDC and EDDC have to be submitted to government by the end of this month [November]. Further information and deadlines can be found on Devon County Council's website.

Some up and coming road restrictions that may affect Tipton residents are:

**Temporary rolling road closure and prohibition of parking notice** is hereby given that Devon County Council has made the above titled order. Anticipated finish **Friday 28th November 2025** for a maximum of 3 days. No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of affected roads except for access to land or premises on or adjacent to those length of roads. Roads affected - **Silver St and Broad St, Ottery St Mary** (between Silver Street and junction to access road to Police Station). There is no alternative route. No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to park or wait on the sections of affected roads. **Silver St, The College, Ottery St Mary (in front of St Mary's Church)** . This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable the Ottery St Mary Christmas Event.

Devon County Council hereby gives notice that: from **Monday 8th December** for a maximum of 5 days until **Friday 12th December** (both dates inclusive). No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed on the sections of affected roads. Roads affected - **Chineway Hill, Ottery St Mary**. The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - **Chineway Head to the Hare and Hounds, A375, A30, B3177, Broad St, Jesu St, Yonder St, Bridgefield, Chineway Rd, to Chineway Cottage, Chineway Hill**. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - **drainage**.

### **Finally if anyone is looking for an outdoor volunteering job –**

**Road Warden Scheme – Communities:** Could YOU be a Road Warden for Ottery St Mary?

Do you care about keeping our local roads safe and well-maintained? The **Road Warden Scheme**, run by Devon County Council, empowers local volunteers to carry out minor highway maintenance tasks, like clearing vegetation, cleaning signs and filling small potholes, making a real difference in our community.

- Full training and support provided
- Flexible volunteering to suit your schedule
- Help improve road safety and appearance in Ottery St Mary
- Interested in stepping up for your town?

Email [admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk) to register your interest.

Which just leaves me to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me via the details below or Ottery Council Office on 01404 812252.

**Cllr Janice Aherne**  
**07508 308569**  
[janice.aherne@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk](mailto:janice.aherne@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk)



## OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL

### Report Of Ottery St Mary Town Council Meeting 3rd November 2025

EDDC Cllr Johns sent a written report which is available on the Council website. EDDC Cllr Collins did not have anything to report. Cllr Collins has attended EDDC Code of Conduct training. EDDC Cllr Faithfull advised that Torbay, Exeter, Plymouth are intending to put forward a different proposal for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). They wish to be separate from the rest of Devon. EDDC are still pushing the 5-4-1 model whereas DCC are pushing a 9-1-1 model. EDDC Councillors will be voting on this on 26<sup>th</sup> November with the proposal submitted to the government by 28<sup>th</sup> November.

The Council's Planning; Finance and Strategic Planning; Community Infrastructure and Operations Committees have all met this month. The Council also held an extraordinary Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October to listen to proposals regarding Land at Gerway Farm. Copies of the minutes of these meetings are available on the Council website.

The Council awarded Community Grants to Operation Rudolph and Escot Village Hall.

The Council agreed that the EV chargers at the Station Hub should be priced as low as possible to support local residents without a driveway who wish to have an electric vehicle. The chargers will be available 24 hours a day (apart from on Mondays and Thursdays when they will be available until 5pm). It was noted that this is a community building and owners will park at their own risk

Following advice from Maverick and discussions with DCC, the Council agreed to put the skatepark access improvements on hold and the skatepark remains open with the current access arrangements (after school, weekends and school holidays).

The Council agreed to accept the updated costs of up to £35,000 in relation to the PlayZone project covering wildflower planting, the installation of bins, benches and cycle racks and the removal of topsoil. The Council will seek alternatives for the removal of the topsoil to reduce the costs. If anyone is interested in approximately 350 m<sup>3</sup> of topsoil, please contact Ottery St Mary Town Council.

The Council agreed that it would contribute towards the maintenance to the Ottery Convent Management Co from January 26 but in the first instance the Council wishes to investigate the options to rationalise the accessway and parking in front of the Council Offices building as a priority.

Concern was raised about the shortage of information being provided to its Councillors by EDDC in relation to Local Government Reorganisation. The final plan will be submitted by EDDC to the government at the end of November.

The Council discussed the Coleridge Pre-School building.

#### **Future Full Council meeting dates:**

|                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025 | Council Offices |
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 | Council Offices |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2026 | Council Offices |

#### **Useful dates:**

**Citizens Advice** at Council Offices every Tuesday from 9.30am until 11.30am (subject to volunteer availability) or telephone 01395 265070.

**Festive Cheer and Christmas Light Switch on - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November from 4pm until 8pm.** Highlights include: LaLa Choir & Silver Band; Torchlit Procession; Light Switch-On by Carnival Royalty (approximately 6.30pm); Dance & Majorette Performances; Christmas Tree Festival & Market; Santa's Grotto at Abbott's DIY and Late Night Opening of Local Businesses.

Pop in and say hello! The Town Council Offices are open Monday to Friday, 10am - 1pm, and we're here to help. Got a question or need assistance? Give us a call or drop us an email (details below). Stay in the loop by following us on Facebook, Instagram or visit our website at [www.otterystmary-tc.gov.uk](http://www.otterystmary-tc.gov.uk), where you'll find agendas, minutes, and all the latest Council news and updates.

**Kerry Kennell, Town Clerk**

**Ottery St Mary Town Council**  
**8 Broad St, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1BZ**  
**Tel: 01404 812252**  
**Email: [admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk)**

## Tipton Times Weather, November 2025

Back in the summer I wrote about how weather forecasting for the British Isles has become easier and much better with the use of satellite observations over the Atlantic. At the end I mentioned that summer weather is still much harder to forecast than winter weather, a subject for another time. So here goes.

The main energy source which drives all our weather is the temperature difference between equator and poles. Heat always wants to move from warm to cold, which drives weather systems. In this column I frequently talk about jet streams, bands of strong westerly winds at high altitude which influence our weather. Jet streams are fuelled by the temperature difference between equatorial and polar regions. In winter the north pole becomes extremely cold as the sun disappears for months, whereas in summer it is much milder. Equatorial temperatures are fairly constant all year round, so the difference to the pole is much greater in winter, resulting in a stronger jet stream, typically between 150 and 210 knots, compared to 70 to 150 knots in summer. A strong jet stream, combined with large differences in air temperature and humidity near the surface, tends to drive the dynamics of large-scale cyclones (low pressure systems).

These are relatively easy for computer models of the atmosphere to get a hold of and predict because of their huge size (hundreds of km across). One of the key features of such systems are weather fronts which mark sharp boundaries between colder drier air and warmer moist air, extending over huge distances. These fronts generate large areas of cloud and rain which are driven along by the winds of the low pressure systems, so again can be well represented by the computer models. These factors combine to mean that significant winter weather can also be well represented in computer models.

So what about summer? We still have jet streams, low pressure systems and fronts in summer, but they tend to be weaker and slower moving and the jet stream is more likely to meander far away from us. Also, with the sun much higher overhead, local daytime heating of air near the ground is much stronger in summer. These two effects allow for small-scale local weather systems, fuelled by local heating, to develop within the slow-moving air masses. The most important of these are showers and thunderstorms driven by convection ... when air heated at the surface starts to rise in bubbles, cools and condenses into clouds and generates local heavy rain. Because of their small scale and rapid development over only an hour or two, these types of storms are much harder for the computer models to predict in detail. Models do a good job of predicting broad areas where convection is likely to occur and roughly how severe it might be but are much less good at predicting exactly where and when individual storms will occur, or how severe they will be. Small differences in local humidity or heating, which are hard to observe, can also make a big difference in convective development.

On a TV forecast you may see scattered blobs of rain moving across Devon ... expect showers but don't pay too much attention to when a particular blob passes over Tipton. On the other hand, if you see a sharp band of more intense showers, that is probably driven by a larger dynamical feature (a trough) and models can be remarkably accurate with these.

As mentioned, we still have lows and fronts in summer, and we can also get convection in winter (mainly from cold air passing over warmer sea surfaces). All seasons are a mix of more and less predictable weather, but generally summer weather is harder to predict than winter. My previous article was somewhat debunking the idea that British weather is unusually hard to predict because of our location on the edge of the continent. Actually, our weather is highly predictable compared to tropical regions well away from jet streams, where all their weather is convective, so spare a thought for their poor forecasters!

**Ken Mylne**



## RSPB Aylesbeare Common

*Autumn is well and truly in the air on Aylesbeare Common and over the last month Sam & Judit, our residential volunteers, have tried their hand at a seasonal speciality - read on to find out more ...*



It probably hasn't escaped anyone's notice that it's been a bumper year for fruit, with the incredibly warm and still summer allowing plenty of pollination to occur. Out on the reserve hasn't been an exception - with plenty of berries on the hawthorns, acorns on the oaks, and what you may not expect, apples! In fact, there are quite a few apple trees dotted about the land we manage, including thirty-five on a piece we're restoring.



This was, until recently, a sand and gravel extraction site, but we've been working to restore the landscape by creating a meadow, planting broadleaf woodland and on one section, an orchard full of old Devon variety apple trees. This autumn, nearly all of the trees were fruiting amazingly well, so we saw an opportunity not to let them go to waste.

Working with the regular weekday volunteers, we harvested the shiny green and red fruits - reading the bizarre names of each variety as we went - including Pig's Nose,

Veitch's Perfection, Bloody Ploughman and King of the Pippins. This gave us a good few bushels' worth, but not quite enough for what we had in mind, so we expanded our search to the rest of the reserve.

We quizzed the collective hive mind of the regular volunteers, who came up with a substantial list of various other trees tucked away in corners or growing along tracks, ripe for the plucking! After a morning's hunt, we returned with a bountiful plunder - ensuring we left enough for the wildlife of course - and set to the next stage in the operation ... pressing.

A production line was set up, with people washing, chopping, grinding and finally pressing the harvest, with some traditional folk tunes (and the odd Ian Dury song about apples) playing in the background. Containers from far and wide were filled, including plenty of old wine and gin bottles, milk jugs, protein powder pots and various cartons of all shapes and sizes, brought along to capture the sweet nectar which poured from the press.

It felt like a very special day, which brought people of all ages together for a traditional activity which is unfortunately something being lost across rural communities. In fact, Britain has lost over 80% of traditional orchards since the 1900's, which has resulted in apple varieties being threatened, and a loss of the biodiversity such as insects, birds and bats that are associated with these special places. We hope that planting this new orchard will not only help in a small way to turn this tide, but is also a great way of helping to build a community.

Lastly, four very special jugs were set aside for a more personal project - and one close to the hearts of many Devonshire residents - the art of cider making. After letting it bubble away for nearly a month, we're thrilled to announce the first batch of residential volunteer scrumpy [we think] ever produced here ... and after much tasting and testing, we've decided it's worth a try.

*Big thanks to East Devon District Council who lent us their community apple press for the day*

Wishing you all a prosperous Christmas and New Year from the Aylesbeare Common team, all the best:

**Aylesbeare Common News**

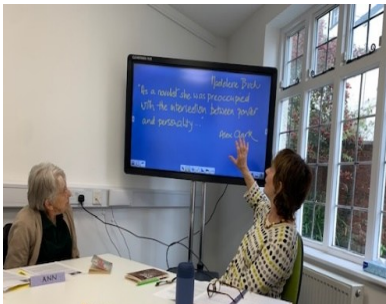
## Ottery St Mary Library carries on with lots of help ...

Hello to all the Tipton St John Library friends/Friends of Ottery Library. If you'd like to become a Friend, just pick up a form in the Library on the Book Sale table as you enter ... nothing to pay and everyone who likes to read and support the Library is welcome! A 9 October *Sidmouth Herald* article by a Friend described our Library as the jewel in Ottery's crown (maybe apologies are due to the magnificent 14<sup>th</sup> century parish church), but at the moment our Library feels as secure as the crown jewels in a French museum. Devon County Council can no longer afford libraries and will shortly publish a consultation, *The Future of Libraries in Devon* ... please watch out for it and respond ... in the meantime we carry on regardless with thanks to our great staff and all the people who read library books.



At the moment the Friends are very grateful to:

- the local branch of *Men's Shed* which designed and built shelving to fit under our Book Sale Table (see photo) along with deep book bins hidden behind



- the South West branch of GVAV in Exeter which kindly donated an interactive display video - this has proved popular for training sessions and the regular literature classes run by the lovely Madeleine



- Ottery St Mary Town Council who awarded Friends a grant of £700 to pay for four new Chrome Books, a badge-maker (so that we don't have to borrow the one from Sidmouth Library), a new office desk and plumbing in

our new dishwasher, itself paid for by the local Rotary Group

- Graham Bishop who is volunteering his time to run a French Conversation class on Monday mornings (please book). All donations go straight to the Library.
- all the creative Library users crafters who are designing the tree decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival in the parish church; this year they will represent *Twelve Days of Gifts of the Library*
- a kind Library user who donated a Christmas hamper to raffle full of Sainsbury's and other goodies – and even bought us the raffle tickets
- two of the members of the Friends committee who worked hard and raised nearly £500 selling donated Folio books online, which required carefully worded condition descriptions
- the continued dedication of our Home Delivery Volunteers: the Friends have recently paid for nice new tote bags for all the books they tote back and forth.



**Marilyn Spidell**, Secretary of Ottery Library Friends

## Recipe Corner

## Christmas Preserve

This festive preserve is packed with seasonal goodies: pine nuts, crystallized ginger, figs and sultanas. It keeps well and the flavours mature with time. This would make an ideal Christmas gift.

Makes 2 litres (3 ½ pints)

2 Navel Oranges

1 Lemon

3 Litres (5 ¼ pints) Water

2.25g (5 lb) Preserving Sugar

100g (4 oz) Pine Nuts

225g (8 oz) Sultanas

225g (8 oz) Dried Figs, Chopped

100g (4 oz) Crystallized Ginger, Chopped

I hope you enjoy it. And have a very

Happy Christmas and New Year!!

**Jenny Pinn**

Cut the oranges into quarters, remove pips and slice thinly. Halve the lemon, remove pips, slice thinly and put into a large pan with the oranges and water. Bring to the boil. Simmer, uncovered, for about 1 hour until the peels are soft. Warm the sugar in the oven, then add to the fruit, stirring until dissolved. Toast the pine nuts in a dry frying pan for 2 to 3 mins until golden. Add to the pan with the remaining ingredients. Boil rapidly, uncovered, until setting point is reached - about 40 mins. Remove from the heat and stand for 10 mins. Stir to distribute the fruit and pour into warm sterilized jars. Stir the preserve again in the jars to stop the fruit sinking. Cool, cover and seal.

## *Tipton Past*

### **Mass observation and an interesting local character.**

In 1937 a social research project began which aimed to record everyday life in Britain through a panel of 500 untrained volunteers who observed everyday life. A local author, Todd Gray from Exeter University has recently been reading through the records taken by people who lived in Devon. One of these people was Diana Murray-Hill who lived in Sidford during this time and then later moved to Tipton. While Diana lived in Sidford she recorded life in the village including her thoughts on the local people. Todd has included some of Diana's recordings in his book. She was one of the foremost active recorders of daily life in the observations project.

Todd had contacted me about Diana's time later in her life in Tipton St John. I could just about remember this magnificent lady who was a great old-school character who lived at Green Lane so, to help recall some memories of Diana, I made some enquiries.

Ann Knight remembered that Diana was a civil servant and she had her bungalow, Sandy Knapp, built in 1966. She travelled to work by rail from the village station and soon became a leading light in the church. She was Church Warden for several years and no one who attended the Medieval Mystery play, once performed in the church, will ever forget her entry as Death, as, dressed in flowing black robes, she floated down the aisle. With a cheery word for everyone and an invitation to partake of a glass of sherry as soon as the sun was over the yard arm (about 10am as I remember) she was a real gem. She worked in a munitions factory during the war and had a book about her experiences entitled '*Ladies May Now Leave Their Machines*' published in 1944 as well as a play for children '*The Wonderful Ingredient*' in 1934.

She could be seen driving around the village in her car, an old Austin A 30 which she called Nimrod. It had the indicators on the side panel, they would flip up and out from the wood panel as she turned. Her brother, Peter Murray Hill married Phyllis Calvert, the famous English movie actress in the 1940s.

I also came across this extract of a piece written by Diana of her memories of the trains, published in the Tipton Times in 1972.

*...The next station was a small one with Tipton St. Johns in white lettering on a green enamel board. Here there was quite a commotion: a railwayman walking down the Train to throw open every door and enquire "All passengers for Sidmouth?" For Tipton was a junction, and Exmouth bound passengers must alight and wait for another train to swoop them off through the fields by the Otter via Newton Poppleford, East Budleigh and Budleigh Salterton to Exmouth. We smug Sidmouthians stuck our heads out of the carriage windows to watch the ejected ones gathering to brood over their cases in the little green painted shelter before we took the steep ascent, plunged headlong through the banks of Harpford woods, emerged under the shadow of fire Beacon and steamed through Woolbrook into the haven of Sidmouth station : the journey's end.*

*I noticed in those days in Tipton was The Golden Lion, the back of the Post Office stores and the cluster of red brick Victorian cottages that was its village street, and a large grey church set high on a mound to the west of the track. If it happened to be June, there was a smell of hay on the warm evening air. A waistcoated porter, chewing a piece of grass as he rested with one foot up on the trolley signified that the fever and pressure of life had been left behind - we were in Devonshire where time no longer mattered.*



*It was not till 1966 that I became a passenger who alighted at Tipton St. Johns – to give my ticket in at the wicket gate, cross over the bridge and walk through the station and towards Green Lane and the bungalow which was now my home. From the Knapp on which it was built I could hear the trains (now diesel powered) chugging to and fro through the fields ...*

This has to be my favourite memory of Diana from her neighbours Jo and John ...

*I remember that she was wonderfully theatrical in what might be thought a bit eccentric, in a fond, amusing, great fun to be around kind of way. In snowbound roads John said he was going to try to get to Ottery and did she need any emergency supplies, I think top of her list were gin and chocolate!*

Diana really was an interesting local - maybe you remember her? Diana died in 1994 and is buried in Tipton churchyard.

Thanks to Ann Knight, Ken Field and Jo and John Earlam for their memories of Diana. If you would like to read Todd Gray's book of the Mass Observation project you can purchase a copy from Paragon book shop in Sidmouth.



**Judith Taylor**



### **Ottery Heritage Society talk: A La Ronde, Exmouth**

There's no meeting of the Ottery St Mary Heritage Society (OHS) in December, but something to look forward to in January is an invitation to hear a popular previous speaker. Historian Trevor Waddington is Chairman of Trustees of the Fairlynch Museum, Budleigh Salterton, and last June he gave the OHS a talk on how the museum came into being.



On **Tuesday 20 January**, Trevor will reflect on the late Georgian period and the lives and creations of the wealthy and independent-minded Parminter cousins of the wealthy Devon wine merchant Parminter family.



*A la Ronde exterior & Drawing Room - photos by Ian Greig*

influenced by classical Italian architecture they experienced on a Grand Tour of Europe, on return the cousins secured a spacious hillside site with a view overlooking the Exe estuary, and commissioned the building of an innovative 16-sided house which would catch the light at any time of day. With great imagination and creative ability, they decorated the house using shells, feathers and souvenirs from their travels, for artworks and friezes.

Trevor Waddington spent a lot of time at A La Ronde as a National Trust guide and is well placed to cover its recent renovations, as well as the intriguing story of a covenant limiting the handing down of the property to female Parminter relatives - with an interesting exception.

The talk is open to all (non-OHS members are asked to contribute £3.50) at 7.30pm in The Institute, Yonder Street, Ottery. Brook Street car park is adjacent.

**Ian Greig - OHS trustee lead for communications**

**Church Calendar For December 2025 & January 2026**  
Everyone is welcome to join us at any of our services or events

**DECEMBER 2025**

|               |                  |                                 |                                                  |                           |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Saturday      | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.00 am                        | Christmas Coffee Morning, cakes & produce stall  | Community Hall            |
| Sunday        | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.00 am<br>10.30 am            | Holy Communion<br>Holy Communion                 | N. Pop<br>O.S.M.          |
| Sunday        | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00 am                        | Holy Communion                                   | T.S.J.                    |
| Friday        | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 6.30 pm                         | Carol Service                                    | V.O.                      |
| Sunday        | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 10.30 am<br>6.30 pm             | Café Church<br>Carol Service                     | Community Hall<br>T.S.J.  |
| Christmas Eve | 24 <sup>th</sup> | 4.00 pm<br>11.00 pm<br>11.30 pm | Crib Service<br>Holy Communion<br>Holy Communion | T.S.J.<br>N.Pop<br>O.S.M. |
| Christmas Day | 25 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00 am<br>9.30 am             | Christmas Communion<br>Online Service            | T.S.J.<br>See below       |
| Sunday        | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30 am                         | Holy Communion                                   | T.S.J.                    |

**JANUARY 2026**

|        |                  |                      |                                  |                  |
|--------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Sunday | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.00 am<br>10.30 am | Holy Communion<br>Holy Communion | N. Pop<br>O.S.M. |
| Sunday | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00 am             | Holy Communion                   | T.S.J.           |
| Sunday | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30 am             | Café Church                      | Community Hall   |
| Sunday | 25 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30 am              | Holy Communion                   | T.S.J.           |

**FEBRUARY 2026**

|          |                 |                      |                                  |                  |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Sunday   | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 10.00 am<br>10.30 am | Holy Communion<br>Holy Communion | N. Pop<br>O.S.M. |
| Saturday | 7 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00 am             | Coffee Morning and produce stall | Community Hall   |

**Online Services**

In addition to the live services and events listed above, an online Service of Worship takes place at 10 am on the following Sundays: 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December and 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> January. Also on 25<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 am. For details of how to access it please contact our Vicar Mark Ward ([revmarkward@btinternet.com](mailto:revmarkward@btinternet.com)) or the PCC Secretary Alison Stevens ([tiptonpcc@gmail.com](mailto:tiptonpcc@gmail.com)) who will be pleased to provide the link.

**Christmas Celebrations**

**December 19<sup>th</sup> - 6.30 pm Carol Service at Venn Ottery**

**December 21<sup>st</sup> - 6.30 pm Carol Service at Tipton St John**

**Christmas Eve - 4.00 pm Crib Service at Tipton St John**

**Christmas Day - 10.00 am Holy Communion at Tipton St John**

## Diary Dates - December 2025 and January 2026

All dates correct at the time of publication.

Art, Craft, Hobbies and pastimes in the Community Hall every **Thursday** from **2.30 - 4.30pm**

Art, Craft, Hobbies & Pastimes Group re-starts January 8th 2026, 2.30-4.30pm in the Community Hall

### December

|          |             |                                                       |           |
|----------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 3rd Dec  | 7pm         | Full Moon Labyrinth Walk, Playing Field               | P18       |
| 7th Dec  | 7pm         | Village Quiz, Community Hall                          | P14       |
| 8th Dec  | 7.30pm      | Table Tennis, Community Hall                          | P7        |
| 11th Dec | 2.30pm      | Christmas Beetle Drive, Community Hall                | Back page |
| 13th Dec | 10.30-12.30 | Carers Support Group, Brambledown, Green Lane         | P8        |
| 14th Dec | 11am-1pm    | Fern & Flow Workshop, Harpford Village Hall           | P18       |
| 15th Dec | 6.30pm      | Carol Singing, meeting at Sundial Nursing Home corner | Back page |

### January

|          |              |                                                |     |
|----------|--------------|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 2nd Jan  | 7pm          | Full Moon Labyrinth Walk, Playing Field        | P18 |
| 9th Jan  | 2.30-4.30pm  | Carers Support Group, Brambledown, Green Lane  | P8  |
| 12th Jan | 7.30pm       | Table Tennis, Community Hall                   | P7  |
| 18th Jan | 11am-1pm     | Fern & Feather Workshop, Harpford Village Hall | P18 |
| 18th Jan | 7pm          | Village Quiz, Community Hall                   | P14 |
| 19th Jan | 7 for 7.30pm | Tipton Ladies Group, Community Hall            | P9  |
| 26th Jan | 7.30pm       | Table Tennis, Community Hall                   | P7  |

### February

|           |     |                                         |     |
|-----------|-----|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| 1st Feb   | 7pm | Full Moon Labyrinth Walk, Playing Field | P18 |
| Half Term |     | TIPPS Peter Pan, Community Hall         | P5  |
| 22nd Feb  | 7pm | Village Quiz, Community Hall            | P14 |



## **Art, Craft, Hobbies and Pastimes Group**

Our last meeting before Christmas will be on

**Thursday, 11th December  
2.30 - 4.30pm  
in the Community Hall**

when we will be holding a

### **Beetle Drive**

**Christmas-themed refreshments  
and small draw in aid of the  
charity**

***Crisis at Christmas.***

**£3.00 All welcome**



## ***Christmas Performance***

**Monday 15th December 2025**

At 2.00 pm

Aylesbeare Church, EX5 2BU



***Enjoy music among the festive  
window displays***

Refreshments included

**Free event—everyone welcome**

Retiring collection



## **Carol Singing around the village**

**Monday 15th December at 6.30pm**

(or join us when you can)

Meet on the corner of Sundial Nursing Home  
(please note this change from recent years)  
and we will finish up at The Golden Lion at around 9pm

**All ages welcome!**

We will be collecting on behalf of the world relief agency  
Tearfund

John & Pauline Belton (01404 813431)